

# PRESS RELEASE

## Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Fourteenth District, Michigan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus

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### CONYERS COMMENDS DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTION REFORM

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee issued the following statement in regards to the election report released by the Democratic Caucus Special Committee on Election Reform, chaired by Congresswoman Maxine Waters:

“On September 11, United Airlines Flight 93 was hijacked by terrorists. As the terrorists aimed the plane at Washington, D.C. and probably the United States Capitol, the passengers on the plane did something uniquely American. Somewhere over Pennsylvania, to decide whether to take on the terrorists, they took a vote. It is probably because of that vote that we can stand here today.

In America, we are told, every vote counts. But last year in a time of national turmoil, we saw that stone age machines and discriminatory practices make some votes count and throw others away. Today, in this time of standing up to terror, we owe it to our nation to reaffirm the most fundamental of constitutional rights.

The Democratic Election Reform Task Force, under the leadership of my colleague and friend, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, is releasing a groundbreaking election reform report recommending minimum national standards for federal elections, funding for federal elections, and provisional ballots. This is to ensure that each and every eligible voter can cast a ballot and have that ballot counted.

I have introduced legislation, along with Democratic Leader Gephardt, Senate Majority Leader Daschle and Senator Christopher Dodd, that would set such standards. H.R. 1170/S. 565, the "Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act of 2001," proposes the same commonsense election reforms as today's released election report. I am proud to report that this bipartisan legislation has over 200 cosponsors and is the only bill supported by every major civil rights and labor organization.

Legislation on election reform is essential for America and we must work continuously to fight to end voting disenfranchisement and secure racial justice in the electoral arena. The voice of each American must be allowed to be heard in our democracy.”

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